

Appln. No. 10/048,160
Amendment dated Feb. 10, 2004
Responsive to the Final rejection of Oct. 10, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-33 remain in this application.

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Final Rejection the examiner indicated that figure 10, as proposed, is acceptable. A formal version of Figure 10 is being prepared and will be submitted as soon as it becomes available. While the examiner may not be able to allow the application until after this formal drawing has been submitted, since this is a matter of formality, it is requested that either an Advisory Action indicating the status of the claims as submitted by this amendment, or an Ex Parte Quayle action be mailed in response to this amendment after Final Rejection.

According to the Final Rejection, the only substantive issue remaining is that claims 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Stucker et al.

It is the applicants' firm belief the claims 14 and 20 defined patentably over the reference to Stucker et al even before the amendments made by this amendment. The last three lines of claim 14 included a recitation that the bearing is **insert molded** within the boss of the wobble plate 40. This is a recitation of a structural relationship which Stucker et al simply does not have.

However, to make the claims define even further over the prior art, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the retaining flange extends over the bearing and around the entire bearing. Again, this is structure which Stucker et al simply does not have. In Stucker et al the discrete tabs 46 which hold the bearing to the wobble plate are not the same as having been **insert molded** in the boss of the wobble plate. And now, even

further, there is no teaching in Stucker et al which could in any way be said to teach or make obvious that the retaining flange extends over the bearing and around the entire bearing. This language in claim 14 recites, and can be most clearly be seen in figure 6C, and recited in paragraph 22 and 23 of the specification, as being the flange 56 which extends around the circumference of the bearing.

By this arrangement the bearing is held tightly to the wobble plate, it can never become loose from the wobble plate. Because it is formed by inserting molding, there is no chance of tabs being broken as the bearing is assembled into place. By comparison to other arrangements, including that of Stucker et al, the structure recited in claim 14 includes a connection between the bearing and the wobble plate which will always remain tight, never letting the bearing loose from the wobble plate. This can not be said of the structure of Stucker et al. In Stucker et al the tabs 46 could be subject to breakage as the bearing is assembled into its space. And further, simply in the normal usage of Stucker et al the tabs could become broken. If one or more of the tabs 46 of Stucker et al were to become broken, the bearing would be held loosely with respect to the wobble plate. Such looseness would mean that the wobble plate would not function properly, and the pump of Stucker et al would become inoperative.

Thus, by applicants' claimed structure, a much more robust operation of the wobble plate is assured, with breakage of the means to hold the bearing to the wobble plate being never being given a chance to happen.

In as much as these parts are often made of plastic, and are placed under substantial stress to bring about the wobble of the wobble plate, applicants' claimed

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structure, which provides a much more robust connection of the bearing to the wobble plate, clearly provides substantial advantage over the tab holding means of Stucker et al.

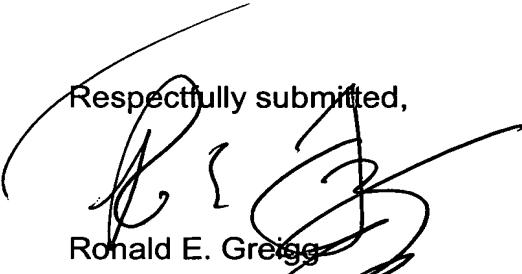
The examiner's indication in paragraph 9 of the Office action, that claims 15-19 and 21-33 include allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

Accompanying this amendment is a letter authorizing payment of the extension of time fee that is due with this amendment. If that letter should become separated from this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of \$110.00, for a first month extension of time, or any other necessary fees in connection with this communication, to Deposit Account Number 07-2100.

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Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims in this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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